

Ohio Slavic and East European Newsletter

Published for the Slavic Studies Community in the
State of Ohio by the Center for Slavic and
East European Studies, The Ohio State
University, 230 West 17th Ave.,
Columbus, Ohio 43210
James P. Scanlan,
Editor

OSEEN is published twice a month during the academic year. It is mailed free of charge to all those on our mailing list. If you are not on our list and wish to receive OSEEN regularly, please let us know.

OSEEN welcomes news items and notices of Slavic interest from around the State. Items of less than one page in length are carried without charge. A one- or two-page announcement or advertisement can be included for a charge of \$10.00 per page. Please send a good xerox copy on 8 1/2" by 11" paper, and make checks payable to The Ohio State University. Deadlines for the receipt of material are the Mondays preceding the first and third Thursdays of each month. The deadline for the next issue is September 15.

For further information please call one of the following numbers (area code 614): Slavic Department Secretary: 422-6733. Slavic Center: 422-8770.

! ! THANKS ! !

to everyone who helped make OSEEN a timely and informative newsletter during the past year. Special appreciation goes to Jerry Ervin, who gathered and wrote the Secondary School News; to Thea Irwin and Ruby Slagle, who handled all the office work; and to the many contributors who supplied us with much valuable material. Keep those cards and letters coming in: items may be contributed throughout the summer, for publication next year beginning with the first issue, September 18.

The Editor

PLANNING FOR MIDWEST SLAVIC CONFERENCE

Next year's Midwest Slavic Conference will be held May 6-8, 1976, at the University of Illinois, Chicago. Interdisciplinary panels and papers on broad literary topics, new approaches to Slavic studies and research in the social sciences are especially solicited. Suggestions should be sent to Barbara Sciacchitano, Conference Coordinator, Department of History, University of Illinois, Chicago, IL, 60680.

FELLOWSHIP AND GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

690. The National Endowment for the Humanities sponsors Program Grants which focus on curriculum development. Grants are awarded to institutions which intend to include the proposed program in the permanent humanities curriculum. Broad and extensive revision of an existing program may be eligible for support, but basic support for the continuation of an established program in its current form or with limited revision is not eligible. Program Grants are designed to support the development and implementation of programs which can provide solid evidence of their value in meeting curricular needs in the humanities. Grants normally do not exceed \$180,000 for 3 years. Deadline is 7/1/75. Write: NEH, 806 - 15th Street, NW, Washington, DC, 20506.

MOSCOW SYMPHONY TO PERFORM

691. The Moscow Symphony Orchestra will perform in Columbus in the early autumn of 1975 as part of the Mershon Concert Series. For details, inquire at Mershon Auditorium, 30 West 15th Avenue, Columbus, OH, 43210. Telephone: (614) 422-2354.

SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWS

692. All Ohio secondary school teachers of Russian have by now received the most current information on plans for Lager' Druzhba. Teachers who are interested in participating in the camp are reminded to take a preliminary poll of their present students' interest and return this information to the Slavic Center, using the green postage-paid card which was supplied.

693. The fall meeting/workshop for secondary teachers has been set for Saturday, September 13, 1975, from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., at the Fawcett Center for Tomorrow on the OSU campus. This is the only non-football date which is far enough in advance of the Lager' Druzhba weekend (October 18) to leave time for all final arrangements to be taken care of. In addition to a methods workshop and camp planning by the Russian teachers, non-language teachers will meet separately to discuss problems and suggest ways in which the Slavic Center can be of service to them.

SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWS (CONT.)

694. The National Program for the Advancement of Pre-College Russian and East European Studies (NPAPREES) was formed in January, 1975. Its director is Robert Carlson of the University of Michigan, where the new organization is headquartered, and there is an Executive Committee consisting of Edith Clarke (University of Washington), Bob Donnorummo (University of Pittsburgh), Gerard Ervin (Ohio State University), Sidney Heitman (Colorado State University), and Joel Wilkinson (Choate Rosemary Hall). NPAPREES is to be an affiliate of the AAASS, and will publish a newsletter, hoping to generate greater interest in the teaching of Russian and East European studies at the pre-collegiate level.

695. Another instance of the promotion of pre-collegiate interest in Slavic studies is the "Outreach Program" of the Russian and East European Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh. Its recent activities have included University faculty visits to high schools and the planning and presentation of in-service courses sponsored by the Pittsburgh Board of Public Education.

696. Through local and regional competitions, Cecily Gottling of the Columbus School for Girls has won a place on the five-member American team which will compete in the international Russian Language Olympiada for high school students in Moscow later this year. Congratulations, Cecily, and good luck in Moscow!

WHO STUDIES RUSSIAN AND WHY?

697. The latest issue of the University of Illinois Foreign Language Newsletter contains the following informative comments from Professor Clayton L. Dawson:

"A survey conducted by R. Dunatov at the end of the Spring Semester, 1974 in the first through fourth semester Russian language classes at the Urbana-Champaign campus yielded some surprising and pleasing results. The results indicate that an amazing 97% of the students in beginning and intermediate Russian have prior foreign language study experience: 41% French, 37% Spanish, 26% German, 20% high school Russian.

"The distribution of requirement-non-requirement students was almost exactly 50-50. Many of the students taking Russian to satisfy the requirement added a note on the questionnaire to the effect that this is not the reason why they were taking Russian, i.e., they would have taken it anyway.

"The reasons for selecting Russian were many, but surprisingly the most frequently listed reasons (36%) had to do with Russian being more interesting, more exotic, more challenging, i.e., Russian offered more personal satisfaction and more peer prestige than the more commonly studied languages.

"An even more surprising and pleasing statistic was the attitude of the students towards Russian: 33% said they were enthusiastic, 53% satisfied, and only 14% checked indifferent or hostile on the questionnaire.

WHO STUDIES RUSSIAN AND WHY? (CONT.)

"Concerning the relative difficulty of Russian, the division was almost even between those who found it easier or the same as the other languages and those who found it harder. The average amount of out-of-class time spent on Russian was six hours per week.

"In light of these findings, it is a shame that so many advisers continue to steer their advisees away from Russian on the grounds that Russian is too difficult, that it will require too much of the student's time, and that the student's grade point average will suffer. This survey shows convincingly that these fears are baseless."

BYZANTINE STUDIES ACTIVE

698. The Byzantine Studies Committee at the Ohio State University has instituted a newsletter, Byzantine News. The newsletter, to appear occasionally, will contain information on course offerings, lectures, publications, and events relating to Byzantine studies. For information, write the Editor, Professor A. Jakovljevic, School of Music, OSU, Columbus, OH, 43210.

699. The first annual Midwestern Byzantine Studies Conference will take place at the Cleveland Museum of Art on October 24-25, 1975. Its aim is to provide an open forum for the reading and discussion of research papers in all areas of Byzantine Studies. The organizing committee welcomes the submission of paper proposals. Those who wish to submit a proposal should send the title and an abstract to the Chairman of the Program Committee, Alice-Mary Talbot, 2995 Coleridge Road, Cleveland Heights, OH, 44118.

CZECH ETHNIC HERITAGE PROJECT

700. An Ethnic Heritage Studies project under way in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is involving representatives of the extensive local Czech community in the preparation of instructional materials to be used in teaching Czech language and culture in junior and senior high schools and community colleges. The project's monthly newsletter may be requested from Mrs. Florence Masters, Director, Ethnic Heritage Studies, Kirkwood Community College, 6301 Kirkwood Boulevard, SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 52406.

FOREIGN TRADE INFORMATION

701. A free brochure, "Foreign Trade Organizations in the USSR--Product Index and Directory," lists hundreds of products wanted or for sale in the Soviet Union. Write: Trade Development and Assistance Division, Bureau of East-West Trade, Main Commerce Bldg., 14th & Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC, 20230.

FREE LITERATURE FROM ROMANIAN LIBRARY

702. The Romanian Library (866-2nd Ave., New York, NY, 10017) was opened in 1971 on the basis of an agreement between the governments of the Socialist Republic of Romania and the USA. The library, in addition to lending materials to visitors, also mails, upon request, free documentary materials on Romania, such as pamphlets, maps, language textbooks, and magazines.

CENTER FOR SLAVIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPRING QUARTER WORKSHOP FOR TEACHERS OF SLAVIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES IN OHIO SECONDARY SCHOOLS, HELD AT THE FAWCETT CENTER FOR TOMORROW, THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY, 2400 OLENTANGY RIVER ROAD, COLUMBUS, OHIO, ON SATURDAY, MAY 17, 1975.

At 10:15 a.m., participants, speakers, and visitors were welcomed by Gerard L. Ervin, Secondary School Coordinator, Center for Slavic and East European Studies at The Ohio State University.

The first speaker was Bert Beynen, Slavic Bibliographer at The Ohio State University Library. Mr. Beynen briefly described the types of materials which are being purchased by the OSU libraries which could be of use to secondary school teachers. In addition to large holdings in Slavic languages, literatures, and area studies, Mr. Beynen suggested that secondary teachers might find the growing collection of materials on Slavic dances and cooking useful for Russian club activity resource materials. Mr. Beynen encouraged secondary teachers who may be looking for material to contact him by mail (Main Library, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH 43210) or by telephone (614-422-6314/6315). In response to a question, Mr. Beynen said that he hoped that a catalogue of available materials in Slavic could perhaps be compiled in the future; however, no such catalogue is available at present.

Next on the program were Diane Birkbichler, Thérèse Bonin, and Don Corbin, all of the Romance Languages Department of The Ohio State University, with a presentation entitled "Communication: A Flexible, Multi-Skill Approach." A rationale for encouraging language teachers to go beyond grammar manipulation exercises and into exercises whose focus is true interpersonal communication was described; then, specific illustrations of some twenty-five such communication exercises were given. Finally, using materials in Russian specially selected for this workshop, teachers had the chance to prepare exercises which would be of use in their first- and second-year classes. The teachers found the workshop very useful, and the suggestion that the Slavic Center should undertake dissemination of teacher-prepared materials of this sort was accepted.

During the lunch break, teachers had an opportunity to preview the film, "Mayakovsky: The Poetry of Action." This 22-minute film, in sound and color, is now circulating among the schools of the teachers who were at the meeting. Other teachers may request this film by writing to the CSEES (see address above).

At 2 p.m., the workshop was formally reconvened for a planning session for the fall, 1975, Ohio weekend Russian language camp for secondary students. Maps, a schedule, an information letter, and a tentative assignment sheet were distributed. The camp will take place from Friday evening, October 17, through Sunday morning, October 19, 1975. The facilities of Camp Ohio, which for the weekend will bear the name Lager' Druzhba, have been reserved. Everyone on the secondary language teachers' mailing list, maintained by the CSEES, whether currently teaching Russian or not, is being kept informed of the specific developments and assignments via special mailings; as the working committees are formed and information of general interest to the Ohio Slavic community is generated, such information will be published in the OSEEN.

As in the past, the teachers had the opportunity to select free materials for their classrooms. Principal among the offerings at this workshop were over 60 books, slide sets, and cassette recordings donated by Four Continent Bookstore and by various publishers; many of these materials were borrowed by those in attendance for use over the summer months. Other free teaching aids included: classroom quantities of KOMETA reprints; Russian recipes; "Little Red Riding Hood" in Russian; reprints from Russkii jazyk za rubezhom; directions for making Ukrainian Easter eggs; posters; and assorted materials from past workshops.

During the course of the day, a number of questions were raised about future CSEES-secondary school activities:

1. Should the CSEES undertake to publish a high-school-level reader in English on Slavic/Soviet daily life and culture? The teachers' reaction to this suggestion was positive; possibilities of producing such a reader will now be explored.
2. Should the CSEES try to acquire, either by lease or purchase, more films, perhaps of feature length, which may be used free of charge by the schools? Once again, the teachers' reaction was positive, and this question will be studied further. Suggestions for the acquisition of particular titles would be welcomed.
3. Have the materials produced by the CSEES for secondary school teachers been helpful this year? Generally, yes; specifically, the KOMETA reprints have been very useful.
4. Have the number and frequency of the secondary teachers' workshops this year been adequate? Should there be more, or fewer? How should they be spaced? It was felt that one early-autumn meeting, before the weekend Russian camp, followed by one winter meeting would be adequate. Spring seems to be the time of OSU Slavic Day; the Olympiada in spoken Russian; OMLTA and AATSEEL meetings; and local school activities such as Russian banquets, proms, preparation for commencement and school closing, and so forth.
5. Should separate workshops be held for those whose interest is primarily language teaching vis-à-vis those whose interest centers on teaching social studies? No consensus was reached on this point.
6. What can be done to improve high school/college articulation in Russian language study in Ohio? This would make a most appropriate topic for discussion next year. An effort will be made to schedule a "town meeting" among the members of the Ohio Russian teaching community at all levels.

7. Should the CSEES and secondary teachers attempt to design a rational and syllabus for a Russian language/culture minicourse? Some interest was expressed in this idea. The product would then be available to any teacher who thought he could propose such a six- or nine-week (or full semester) course to his school administration, with an eye towards improving enrollments.

Attending the workshop were 23 people, representing twelve secondary schools and five departments or activities located at The Ohio State University.

Raymond F. Bair, Oakwood HS, Dayton
Diane Birkbichler, Romance Languages Department, OSU
Bert Beynen, OSU Library
Thérèse Bonin, Romance Languages Department, OSU
Don Corbin, Romance Languages Department, OSU
Natalie Cowan, Brookhaven HS, Columbus
Halyna Desler, Thomas Jefferson JHS, Cleveland
Lisa Drumm, FL (Russian) Education student, OSU
Alice Ervin, AAASS, OSU
Gerard Ervin, CSEES, OSU
Sharon Fullerton, OSU Library
Carole Kuhn, Fairfield HS, Fairfield
Lawrence Newman, Slavic Department, OSU
Lydia Papouras, Bratenahl HS-Bratenahl Elementary School, Bratenahl
Alex Pashovich, Worthington HS, Worthington
David F. Robinson, Slavic Department, OSU
Kathi Schmoll, Columbus School for Girls, Columbus
Vickie Spearman, Carroll HS, Dayton
Irene Trachevski, Upper Arlington HS, Columbus
Leon Twarog, CSEES, OSU
Karin Wagar, Hastings HS, Columbus
Creston Whiting, Marietta Senior HS, Marietta
Henry Ziegler, Princeton HS, Cincinnati

The CSEES wishes to extend its appreciation to the above individuals, as well as to those who have attended earlier workshops but were unable to attend this one, for their support during the 1974-75 school year. Several people have participated in all three of the workshops; many were able to participate in two. A greater effort will be made in the coming year to reach those teachers who did not attend any of the 1974-75 workshops to find how the CSEES secondary school program can be of service to them. Program suggestions for future workshops are, of course, always welcome.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.